

# YESTERDAY'S TESTIMONY OFFERED NO SURPRISES

## DESPITE PETRAEUS AND CROCKER'S ROSY ASSESSMENT...

**General David H. Petraeus, 4/8/08:**

"...There has been significant but uneven security progress in Iraq. Since September, levels of violence and civilian deaths have been reduced substantially, Al Qaeda-Iraq and a number of other extremist elements have been dealt serious blows, the capabilities of Iraqi Security Force elements have grown, and there has been noteworthy involvement of local Iraqis in local security."

**Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker, 4/8/08:**

"Developments over the last seven months have strengthened my sense of a positive trend... Sustaining that progress will require continuing U.S. resolve and commitment."

## ...THEY HAD TO ADMIT IRAQ ISN'T CLOSE TO ACHIEVING SECURITY AND STABILITY

**General Petraeus:** "We haven't turned any corners."

"The champagne bottle has been pushed to the back of the refrigerator."

"We haven't seen any lights at the end of the tunnel." [4/8/08]

**Ambassador Ryan Crocker:** "Almost everything about Iraq is hard." [4/8/08]

## EVEN REPUBLICANS WERE SOUNDING IMPATIENT...

**Senator Bob Corker (R-TN):** "I think people want a sense of what the end is going to look like." [4/8/08]

**Senator John Barrasso (R-WY):** "We're a generous people, but our patience is not unlimited." [4/8/08]

**Senator George Voinovich (R-OH):** "The American people have had it up to here." [4/8/08]

**Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE):** "There's, it seems to me, some disconnect in the abstraction that we're dealing with today." [4/8/08]

## ...AFTER MORE THAN A WEEK OF BAD NEWS

- "A crackdown on the Mahdi Army is creating potentially destabilizing political and military tensions in Iraq." [NY Times, 4/8/08]
- "Despite considerable U.S. expenditures on oil and electricity infrastructure, oil exports and the supply of electricity and other services have not risen significantly since 2004." [Washington Post, 4/8/08]
- "Among combat troops sent to Iraq for the third or fourth time, more than one in four show signs of anxiety, depression, or acute stress." [NY Times, 4/6/08]
- "[On Sunday] at least two American soldiers had been killed and 17 wounded in the [Green] Zone, one of the worst daily tolls for the American military in the most heavily protected part of Baghdad." [NY Times, 4/7/08]
- "More than 1,000 Iraqi soldiers and policemen either refused to fight or simply abandoned their posts during the inconclusive assault against Shiite militias in Basra." [NY Times, 4/4/08]
- General Cody: "Today our Army is out of balance. The current demand for forces in Iraq and Afghanistan exceeds our sustainable supply of soldiers, of units and equipment, and limits our ability to provide ready forces for other contingencies.... I've never seen our lack of strategic depth be where it is today." [Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, 3/31/08]